

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/732,066

Examiner

Ellen C. Tran

Applicant(s)

SKINNER ET AL.

Art Unit

2134

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9 October 2007 and Interview on 8 November 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 8 November 2007.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Ellen Tran
ELLEN TRAN
ART 2134
PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. In response to amendment filed on 9 October 2007 and Examiner Initiated Interview on 8 November 2007. Claims 1, 11, and 15 have been amended. Amendments to the claims are accepted.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record is attached. Please enter entire claim set. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. The examiner's amendment was authorized by attorney of record Bosco Kim in phone interview on 8 November 2007 and confirming email sent on 9 November 2007.

Response to Arguments

- 3 Applicant's arguments filed 9 October 2007 have been fully considered and they are persuasive.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-24 are allowed.

Conclusion

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ellen C Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-3842. The examiner can normally be reached from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Zand can be reached on (571) 272-3811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ellen. Tran
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2134
10 November 2007

Examiner's Amendment

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a computer of handling network activation, the method comprising:

receiving at a plurality of plug-in device devices a command from a driver to initiate network activation procedures with a selected telecommunications carrier, wherein said driver is generic to various telecommunications carriers and said plug-in device includes components that are tailored to activate the computer with a selected telecommunications carrier and register the computer with a selected service provider;

determining at one of the plurality of plug-in device a network activation status of the computer;

sending, by one of the plurality of plug-in device, a request to a device having network telecommunications carrier activation information in a registration file provided by said selected service provider;

receiving, at one of the plurality of plug-in device, the network telecommunications carrier activation information from the device; and

configuring the computer with the network telecommunications carrier activation information in order to establish network activation with the telecommunications carrier,

wherein said plurality of plug-in devices can be tailored to multiple carriers in any language;

wherein the API steps through a setup process comprising: retrieving the appropriate screens, entering user information, submitting the information to the driver device, writing the personal data in memory, and submitting the data to the service provider; and

wherein said plurality of plug-in devices are compatible with each other of said plurality of plug-in devices.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the received command includes a launch code to initiate a particular network telecommunications carrier activation procedure.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the device having network telecommunications carrier activation information is a single in-line memory module (SIMM) card configured to be compatible with the telecommunications carrier.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of determining a network telecommunications carrier activation status comprises determining if the computer has a current single in-line memory module (SIMM) card that is compatible with the telecommunications carrier.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein the step determining a network telecommunications carrier activation status further comprises:
 - determining if the computer was previously network activated with a previous single in-line memory module (SIMM) card; and
 - determining if the previous SIMM card is the current SIMM card.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of determining a network telecommunications carrier activation status comprises:
 - receiving an activation security key from a user of the computer; and
 - determining if the activation security key is valid for the telecommunications carrier.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the device having the network telecommunications carrier activation information is a server of the telecommunications carrier.

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8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7, wherein the steps of sending and receiving are carried out in a protocol specific to the telecommunications carrier.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7, wherein the network telecommunications carrier activation information that is received includes an access number that allows the computer to access network services of the telecommunications carrier.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of configuring the computer comprises storing an access number that allows the computer to access network services of the telecommunications carrier.
11. (Currently Amended) ~~A plug-in device component~~ configured to be operable in a generic activation framework with multiple carriers in any language, ~~the plug-in device~~ comprising:
- a plurality of plug-in devices installable and removable from a processing unit;
 - an application program interface (API) tailored to a particular telecommunications carrier, wherein the API is configured to receive a network telecommunications carrier activation command from a driver device in a computer that is generic to various telecommunications carriers; and an API tailored to a particular service provider in a registration file provided by said particular service provider, wherein the API is configured to receive a service provider activation command from the driver device;
 - wherein said plurality of plug-in devices can be tailored to multiple carriers in any language;
 - wherein the API steps through a setup process comprising: retrieving the appropriate screens, entering user information, submitting the information to the driver device, writing the personal data in memory, and submitting the data to the service provider; and
 - wherein said plurality of plug-in devices are compatible with each other of said plurality of plug-in devices.

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12. (Currently Amended) The ~~plug-in device~~ component of Claim 11, wherein the ~~plug-in device~~ component is an application configured to be initiated in a personal digital assistant.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~plug-in device~~ component of Claim 11, further comprising a user interface configured to query a user for an activation security key to access services of a telecommunications carrier.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~plug-in device~~ component of Claim 11, wherein upon receiving a particular network telecommunications carrier activation command from the generic driver device, the application program interface (API) is configured to cause the plug-in device to determine a network telecommunications carrier activation status of the computer.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for handling a network telecommunications carrier activation, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving at a plurality of plug-in device devices a command from a driver to launch network activation procedures with a selected telecommunications carrier, wherein said driver is generic to various telecommunications carriers and said plurality of plug-in device devices includes components that are tailored to activate the computer with the selected telecommunications carrier and register the computer with the selected service provider;

determining at one of the plurality of plug-in device a network activation status of the computer;

sending, by one of the plurality of plug-in device, a request to a device having network telecommunications carrier activation information;

receiving, at one of the plurality of plug-in device, the network telecommunications carrier activation information from the device in a registration file provided by said selected service provider; and

configuring the computer with the network telecommunications carrier activation information in order to establish network activation with the telecommunications carrier, wherein said plurality of plug-in devices can be tailored to multiple carriers in any language;

wherein the API steps through a setup process comprising: retrieving the appropriate screens, entering user information, submitting the information to the driver device, writing the personal data in memory, and submitting the data to the service provider; and

wherein said plurality of plug-in devices are compatible with each other of said plurality of plug-in devices.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, wherein the received command includes a launch code to initiate a predefined network telecommunications carrier activation routine.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, wherein the device having network telecommunications carrier activation information is a single in-line memory module (SIMM) card configured to be compatible with the telecommunications carrier.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, wherein the step of determining a network telecommunications carrier activation status further causes the processor to carry out the step of determining if the computer has a current single in-line memory module (SIMM) card that is compatible with the telecommunications carrier.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, wherein the step of determining a network telecommunications (carrier) activation status furthermore causes the processor to carry out the steps of:

determining if the computer was previously network telecommunications carrier activated with a previous single in-line memory module (SIMM) card; and determining if the previous SIMM card is the current SIMM card.

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20. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, wherein the step of determining a network telecommunications carrier activation status further causes the processor to carry out the steps of:


receiving an activation security key from a user of the computer; and determining if the activation security key is valid for the telecommunications carrier.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, wherein the device having the network telecommunications carrier activation information is a server of the telecommunications carrier.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, wherein the steps of sending and receiving are carried out in a protocol specific to the telecommunications carrier.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 21, wherein the network telecommunications carrier activation information that is received includes an access number that allows the computer to access network services of the telecommunications carrier.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 15, wherein the step of configuring the computer further causes the processor to carry out the step of storing an access number that allows the computer to access network services of the telecommunications carrier.


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